PRES Students At Final Harvest Of White House Kitchen Garden

Two students from Pearl River Elementary School (PRES) recently had the opportunity to visit the White House & meet the President & First Lady of the United States.

Fourth graders Rhiannon Willis, daughter of Ria Willis, & Ajay Lewis, son of Shavon Willis and Adam Lewis, were invited to work alongside First Lady Michelle Obama picking fruits & vegetables in her final harvest of the White House Kitchen Garden on the south part of the White House lawn on Oct. 6.

President Barack Obama made a surprise appearance & talked with the participants.

Also in attendance for the event included:

- Kjell Lindgren, NASA Astronaut;
- Alonzo Mourning, seven-time NBA All-Star & member of the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition;
- Ashanti, singer/songwriter & actress;
- Sesame Street’s Elmo & Rosita;
- Donna Martin, RDN, Director, Burke County School Nutrition Program, & President-elect...

..see HARVEST, pg. 6

Willis Crowned 2016 CCHS Homecoming Queen

Choctaw Central High School senior Rebekah Willis was crowned the 2016 Homecoming Queen during halftime of the Choctaw Central-Southeast Lauderdale football game on Sept. 30 at Warrior Stadium. Pictured from left is escort/grandfather Kirby Willis, homecoming queen Rebekah Willis & Chief Phyliss J. Anderson.

PRES students Rhiannon Willis & Ajay Lewis, along with select students from the Washington, D.C. area, pose with President Barack Obama & First Lady Michelle Obama and special guests during the final harvest of the White House Kitchen Garden on Oct. 6.
Halito!

The change in the season is a great welcome and I hope everyone is enjoying all of the fall activities happening across our tribal communities. It is nice to experience the milder than usual temperatures, especially the coolness in the early morning and late evening hours.

Football and cross country seasons have ended, and eagerly we are looking forward to Warrior and Lady Warriors basketball and soccer. It is very true our young athletes get a huge boost from the fans, therefore whenever possible, I encourage you to come out to these events and support our talented student athletes.

CCHS Tailgate
On Friday, October 21, and kicking off the last home game for the Warriors, I hosted a tailgate event for all CCHS football fans. It was great to see everyone who came out to enjoy food, fellowship, prizes and fun. Thank you to all of the volunteers who worked very hard to make this a successful event. I look forward to hosting this annual event next football season!

Read Aloud Month
Throughout the month of October, I participated in Read Aloud Month by visiting each of the Tribal elementary schools and reading to students. I was greeted very warmly by everyone at each school, and I greatly enjoyed visiting with some of our youngest and brightest Tribal members. My hope is that we all take time to read aloud to children whenever possible and become great examples for the love of reading and learning.

Breast Cancer Awareness
Activities were held in October to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness and Prevention Month. On October 4, the CCHS Lady Warriors softball team held a Pink Out game during Senior Night. Three breast cancer survivors were recognized and threw out the ceremonial first-pitch to the three seniors on the team.

On October 7, the Warriors football team held a Pink Balloon Release and Pink Out game to honor the fighters, survivors and loved ones affected by breast cancer. I appreciate the organizers of these activities for their efforts, and thank you to everyone who participated.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the U.S. and the most frequently diagnosed cancer in the world. Although it is rare, men can also be diagnosed with breast cancer. Early detection and effective treatment are very important in the battle against this disease.

For more information or questions about breast cancer, I encourage you to contact the Choctaw Health Center’s Public Health Services at (601) 389-4110.

ECCC Alumni of the Year
I was humbled to be honored by my alma mater, East Central Community College, as the 2016 Alumnus of the Year. Fellow Alumni of the Year honoree included Prentice Cope Land (Class of 1949) of Philadelphia, and new Athletic Hall of Fame members Lynn Russell Hayes (Class of 1975) of Decatur and Kendrick Clancy (Class of 1997) of Gluckstadt.

ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart presented each of us a beautiful copper engraved plaque with our likeness that will be displayed on the East Central campus in Decatur, Mississippi.

A day full of moments was planned, ending with the ECCC Warriors Homecoming football game against Hinds Community College.

My success has been made possible through the support of our trib-
Receiving special recognition at East Central Community College’s 2016 Homecoming celebration held Saturday, Oct. 15, were (from left) Prentice Copeland (Class of 1949), Alumni of the Year, Chief Phyliss J. Anderson (Class of 1994), Alumni of the Year, & new Athletic Hall of Fame members Lynn Russell Hayes (Class of 1975) & Kendrick Clancy (Class of 1997). The awards presentations were made at the annual Alumni Luncheon held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria. (EC Photo)

Al members and by the many opportunities afforded me during my tenure at ECC. I am so proud to accept and share this honor with my fellow Tribal members.

**USET Conference**

The semi-annual United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) conference was held in Cherokee, North Carolina, hosted by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. It is always beneficial to get together with fellow USET member tribes and gain valuable insights on issues and challenges that we face as Native Americans.

At the conference, I was honored to meet the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Chairman Dave Archambault, II. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe continues to lead a peaceful and widely followed protest against the disreputable Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL).

Chairman Archambault spoke on behalf of his people and shared some of his thoughts and perspectives.

“We have received a lot of support from indigenous people across the world. There is a rising in Indian Country and I feel it’s a spirit that has been awakened throughout the world when it comes to indigenous people and indigenous land. I believe it’s because of the infringement on our rights. We have always felt like there isn’t much we can do but this experience and the unity at Standing Rock has helped me learn there is something we can do. Together we can make enough noise to change and make a difference.”

This gathering and the inspiring words of Chairman Archambault are a true testament to the USET slogan “There is strength in unity.”

We thank the Chairman for his leadership. This protest is the largest uprising of American Indian Tribes in American History and on behalf of MBCI I am proud to have sent our support on this issue. Let’s keep the people of Standing Rock Tribe in our thoughts and prayers.

**Homecoming**

On Friday, September 30th, Choctaw Central High School held its annual Homecoming celebration, which included a parade and a ceremony during the halftime portion of the Warriors versus Southeast Lauderdale Tigers football game. I enjoyed being in the parade and seeing all of the entries on display. Crystal Ward

Parade winners included: MBCI Tribal Administration (1st Place) and Choctaw Fire Department (2nd Place) in the Tribal Program Category; Southern Pine Drum Group (1st Place) in the Non-Tribal Program Category; and Bogue Chitto Elementary School (1st Place), Pearl River Elementary School Princesses and Braves (2nd Place) and Department of Early Childhood Education (3rd Place) in the School/Education Category.

During halftime of the football game, I was honored to crown Senior Maid Rebekah Willis as the 2016 CCHS Homecoming Queen. Congratulations to the parade winners, and the CCHS faculty and Homecoming Court on a job well done!

**Special Olympics Win**

Congratulations to the Mid-Mississippi Region of Special Olympics on their gold medal wins in Unified Flag Football and Bocce competitions at a recent event held at Camp Shelby. These teams are a unified group of special education and general education students from Choctaw Central and Leake Central.

Gold medal flag football team members from CCHS are Danta Cotton, Terrance Thomas, Allen Sockey, Demarco Thomas, Jerrick McMillan, Gunnar Tubby and Trevor York.

Bringing home the gold medal in

.....see LETTER, pg. 4
The following ordinances & resolutions were submitted to the Choctaw Tribal Council for consideration. Listed below is a brief summary & action taken. Individuals wishing to request a resolution and/or its attachment must have a DOCUMENT REQUEST FORM completed & submitted to the Policy & Legislative Office. For more information, call 601-650-7486.

REGULAR CALL MEETING OCT. 11, 2016

Resolution CHO 17-001, confirming appointments to the Tribal Election Committee, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-002, approving FY 2017 Budgets for Choctaw Residential Center Enterprise, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-003, authorizing a Distribution of Tribal Funds, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-004, authorizing the Department of Family & Community Services to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Family Violence Prevention Program, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-005, approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) & the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) Bocce competitions were CCHS students Raven McMillan and Tonya Billie. Proudly, Danta Cotton was also selected to participate in the Special Olympics “Egg Bowl” in Starkville! These students have shown great determination, skill and teamwork, and we are so proud of them.

On Nov. 3, Chief Phyliss J. Anderson hosted a Breakfast of Champions event for teams that won their respective sport championships. ABOVE, Choctaw Central special education & general education students who won gold medals in the Mid-Mississippi Region of Special Olympics’ unified flag football & bocce competitions were honored. BELOW, The Choctaw Central Lady Warriors slow-pitch softball team were honored for their Class 3A state championship they won on Oct. 22 in Ridgeland.
confirming a waiver of potential conflict of interest, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-006, granting authority to the Office of Utilities Management to construct a new potable water storage tank on certain tract of land in the Bogue Chitto Community, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-007, applying for a 2016 Tribal Energy Development Capacity (“TEDC”) Grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-008, applying for a 2016 Energy & Mineral Development Program (“EDMP”) Grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-009, approving a site lease for a proposed housing subdivision for Choctaw Housing Authority in the Standing Pine Community, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-010, approving a site lease for a proposed housing subdivision for Choctaw Housing Authority in the Crystal Ridge Community, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-011, approving the 2016-2017 Wildlife Proclamation to regulate hunting & fishing on Tribal lands, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-012, approving Tribal Enrollments, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-013, approving the relinquishment of membership of a Tribal member, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-014, approving increase in blood degree and/or name change for previously enrolled Tribal members, was ADOPTED 15 YES; 1 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-015, amending Title IX of the Choctaw Tribal Code, was ADOPTED 15 YES (R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, Sr., R. Isaac, S. Johnson, W. McMillan, L. Parker, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson); 1 NO (H. Nickey); 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-016, placing Blackmon & Blackmon, PLLC Law Firm on the list of attorneys authorized to perform legal services for the MBCI, was ADOPTED 15 YES; 1 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-017, requiring the Secretary-Treasurer to execute delegations of authority, was ADOPTED 15 YES; 1 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

very proud of their accomplishments.

I also want to express my appreciation to their wonderful coaches, Amanda Reed from Choctaw Tribal Schools and Kris Upchurch from Leake Central, for supporting these amazing students. Team coaches have worked tirelessly with our students to demonstrate the power of positivity, believing in themselves and working to achieve goals.

This group is truly an inspiration to many and I offer my whole-hearted congratulations!

**Softball Championships**

On Saturday, October 22, 2016, the Lady Warriors Slow-Pitch Softball team traveled to Freedom Ridge Park in Ridgeland, Mississippi, to take on the Mooresville Lady Troopers for the state title. The championship was determined on a best-of-three games format. The first game ended on a close 6-5 victory for the Lady Warriors. The second game was a strong showing for the girls, and they won the game and clinched the championship with a 13-2 victory. Congratulations to the Lady Warriors, Class 3A MHSAA State Champions!

I also commend the Neshoba Central Lady Rockets and the Newton County Lady Cougars for their championship wins. The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians celebrates all of these players’ dedication, commitment and team work.

**CHC Anniversary**

I want to congratulate the Choctaw Health Center on its 40th year of exceptional service to our Choctaw people. Many successes have been accomplished over the years, including a historic milestone last March with the opening of the new Choctaw Health Center facility.

We have also expanded services in many of the departments. But we cannot stop there. I remain dedicated to ensuring that the Tribe continues its efforts to provide the best quality health care for all Tribal members.

**Choctaw Community Fund**

Once again, we are encouraging everyone to contribute to the Choctaw Community Fund (CCF). You can either make a one-time donation to the fund or donate your “fair share” through payroll deduction. Your fair share amounts to less than one-half of one percent of your annual income. For example, if you earn $20,000 a year, your fair share would be a little less than $2 a week.

When you donate to the CCF, you are contributing money to community organizations such as the Choctaw Veterans Committee and the Boys and Girls Club. Also, funds from the CCF are used to provide assistance to community members in emergency situations, such as the loss of a home due to a fire.

The CCF needs your support, and I hope all of you will do your part in making sure that we raise as much money as we can for this beneficial program.

**Closing**

I urge everyone to make their preparations for the cold temperatures this fall and winter. I know that it’s not always easy to predict the unpredictable Mississippi weather on any given day. However, we do know that eventually we will have some very cold, sometimes freezing days.

Make sure your heating appliances have been checked, are in good working condition and are being used as intended. Always keep an eye out for our elders and others who live alone and who may need extra assistance.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming holiday activities. We will send out information on these events through Tribal email, website and social media. Thank you to all of you for your prayers and support.

Many Blessings,

Phyliss J. Anderson

Tribal Chief
Resort Associates Support Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The Central Magnolias affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure recognized Pearl River Resort with the Spirit of Promise Corporate award for its continuous support of breast cancer awareness and research. Resort associates showed their support of the non-profit organization as they donated $14,053 in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

“This is our fourth year having these activities, and I truly admire the love shown to those affected and the outpouring of support in finding a cure.”

Each year, the Resort gives its associates an opportunity to get involved with the activities: “Paint the Promenade Pink” and “Buttons for the Cause.” During “Paint the Promenade Pink,” hundreds of associates wrote their name, a loved one’s name or a positive message on pink ribbon decals. These beautiful symbols were displayed on the windows of the Silver Star Promenade.

Associates also provided generous donations and received a “Hope. Faith. Cure.” button and shirt during “Buttons for the Cause.”

For more information on Pearl River Resort, call 1.866.447.3275 or visit www.pearlriverresort.com.

HARVEST ............................................................................................................................................ continued from page one

of the Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics;
Al Roker, The Today Show;
Cathy Burns, President, Produce Marketing Association;
Will Allen, Farmer, Founder & CEO of Growing Power;
José Andrés, Chef & Entrepreneur;
Sam Kass, Acre Venture Partners & Founder of Trove; and
Bill Yosses, Founder, Kitchen Garden Laboratory.

The Choctaw Health Center Diabetes Prevention Program & PRES participate in the Let's Move! in Indian Country (LMIC) project, in conjunction with the First Lady’s Let’s Move initiative to bring together leaders, educators, medical professionals, parents, & others in a nationwide effort to address the challenge of childhood obesity.

Indian Health Service LMIC Coordinator Gale Marshall (Oklahoma Choctaw) worked closely with the Office of the First Lady & the Special Diabetes Program for Indians to reach out to the Diabetes Prevention Program & select students for the Kitchen Garden project.

Rhiannon & Ajay not only represented the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, but all Native tribes who participate in the LMIC project. PRES Teacher Assistant Shavon Willis served as chaperone.

They were interviewed by Cronkite News Arizona PBS from the Hopi/Navajo Nation & visited the National Museum of the American Indian, the National Mall, the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, National World War II Memorial, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, & the Department of Interior.

LMIC seeks to improve the health of American Indian & Alaska Native children, who are affected by childhood obesity at some of the highest rates in the country.

To address the health crisis that young American Indians & Alaska Natives are facing, Tribal governments, Urban

...continued next page
Diabetes Awareness Run/Walk Held in Choctaw

The Diabetes Prevention Program hosted their 20th Annual 2 Mile Run/Walk for Diabetes Awareness on Saturday, October 15 in Choctaw.

Participants started and finished at the Choctaw Central High School front gate and ran/walked the two-mile course on Industrial Road in the Pearl River Community.

Overall winners were (male) Tobiah Ben and (female) Briana Wesley. First and second place finishers in each age category are listed below.

(Ages 7-Under) Male - 1st, Koi Denson; 2nd, Chaston Johnson; Female - 1st, Iyley Denson; 2nd, Shastyn Lewis.

(Ages 8-12) Male - 1st, Dylan Stephens; 2nd, Christian Davis; Female - 1st, Jaeden Wesley; 2nd, Nataysia Willis.


(Ages 26-32) Male - 1st, Shane Butler; 2nd, Michael Willis; Female - 1st, Cheriena Ben; 2nd, Shavon Willis.


(Ages 40-45) Male - 1st, Bruce Jim; 2nd, Jay Wesley; Female - 1st, Jonie Vaughn; 2nd, Priscilla Lilly.

(Ages 46-52) Male - 1st, Gregory Shoemake; 2nd, Ricky Alex; Female - 1st, Marion Sockey; 2nd, Lori Ahshapanek.

(Ages 53-60) Male - 1st, Adolph Vivians; 2nd, Daniel Mitan; Female - 1st, Cheryl Den-son; 2nd, Lena Willis.

(Ages 61-65) Male - 1st, Howard Tucker; Female - 1st, Rita Mattera; 2nd, Josephine Morris.

(Ages 66-Above) Male - 1st, Stephen Tubby; Female - 1st, Bernita Reynolds; 2nd, Gloria White.

The event promotes diabetes awareness across the Choctaw Reservation as participants are urged to become educated on diabetes prevention and management and hopefully overcome the devastating effects of diabetes.

Disposing Of Expired Medication

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency will soon be offering a wonderful service to the Tribe as they will provide a collection station in the Choctaw Health Center where you may properly dispose of medications you no longer take.

There are many reasons not to keep expired medications or medications you no longer take. By keeping expired medications, or medications you no longer use, you may be putting yourself or your family members at risk for harm or even an untimely death.

If you search the Internet by Googling “Accident Death Medication,” numerous websites appear. Most of them tell a sad story of someone who accidentally took medications that was not intended for them.

There’s another important reason to only keep the medication you are currently taking. If for some reason you end up in the hospital (car accident or other reason), your loved ones can quickly get the information to the hospital to make sure you receive the medications you need. This will help the hospital provide the best care for you.

In addition to getting rid of medications you no longer need, the Choctaw Health Center Pharmacy staff offers a few medication storage recommendations to help make you home safer:

• Store medications in a cool, dry place away from heat, moisture, and humidity.
• Never use damaged medication, or medications that have changed color, texture, or smell, even if it isn’t expired.
• Always keep medications in their original container. This could be very important if the medication needs to be quickly identified.
• Most importantly, always keep medications out of sight or reach of children.

For more information about medication storage, call the CHC Pharmacy at 601-389-4330.
MSMS Partners With CTS for Instruction

Mississippi Math and Science (MSMS) has partnered with Choctaw Tribal Schools to bring Algebra I instruction into the eighth grade classrooms for qualified students based on individual student math data.

This instruction will be provided via interactive, long-distance learning. An MSMS instructor presents a daily 55-minute lesson based on Mississippi College and Career standards and concepts.

Through the use of Polycom technology, students and school facilitators at Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Red Water, & Tucker Elementary Schools, & Choctaw Central Middle School interact daily with their instructor, Karin McWhorter, to acquire Algebra I skills.

This new technological method of learning will provide students a future opportunity to expand their knowledge by acquiring advanced math skills at the high school level, as well as earn a high school academic credit before entering ninth grade.

CES Hosts Visitors

Conehatta Elementary School was visited by students from Lake Middle School & Sebastapol Elementary during American Indian Week celebrations. Visitors experienced a display of Choctaw culture as our students, along with students from Choctaw Central High School, performed traditional dances, songs & drumming. Visiting students were given beaded necklaces, art work that depicted the belt, crown & headdress, & were treated to a sample of fry bread. It was a honor to share our traditions with our visitors.

CES Braves, Princesses

Conehatta Elementary School held its Brave & Princess Pageant during American Indian Week. Winners were, front row from left, Tiny Brave Konley Anderson & Tiny Princess Xandria Wallace; back row, Brave Alarys Johnson, Princess Shantashia John, Tiny Brave Keondrea Anderson, & Tiny Princess Kadriann Farmer.

CES Tutoring Program

Students at Conehatta Elementary School have the opportunity to receive extra help in Reading and Math through the Title 1 Tutorial Program.

There are certified teachers on campus Tuesday-Thursday of each week to work one-on-one or in small group sessions with students.

Teachers also go into the classrooms while instruction and practice are taking place and are available to assist and reinforce the lesson being taught. This gives teachers the means to give personal attention to students in areas of reading and math.

The goal of the program is to rein-

SPES Princesses, Braves

Standing Pine Elementary School crowned their Princesses & Braves for the 2016-2017 school year. LEFT, Tiny Division winners Kanzlee Richardson & Gabriel King. CENTER, Lil Division winners Yazzlyn Alex & Brylas Willis. RIGHT, Princess & Brave Brylee Willis & Aiden Alex.

SPES Students Honored

Several students from Standing Pine Elementary School achieved outstanding subject ratings in the 2016 Spring Mississippi Assessment Program (MAP). In math, 3rd grader Brylee Willis & 4th graders Anya Anderson, Cameron Reed, Chloe Wesley, & Nataysia Willis achieved Level 5 ratings. In the Mississippi Science Test, 5th grader Bishop Reed achieved an advanced rating. Not pictured is 6th grader Jaeden Wesley as she achieved a Level 5 rating in MAP language.
SPES Breast Cancer Awareness
In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the students & staff of Standing Pine Elementary School honored breast cancer survivors principal Linda Peoples & staff member Terese Breedlove with a celebration featuring banners, posters, letters, songs, & dances. A balloon release concluded the event. Pictured left is Terese Breedlove, left, & Linda Peoples.

CONEHATTA UNIT NEWS
Mission Statement:
To inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

Upcoming Events
On Wednesday, Dec. 21, the Club will be open 12:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. due to 60 percent day at Tribal Schools. On Thursday-Friday, Dec. 22-23, the Club will be closed. On Monday, Dec. 26 - Tuesday, Jan. 2, the Club will be closed for the holidays.

On Tuesday, Jan. 3, the Club will open their Spring Session. Hours will be from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Youths of the Months
Braylon Smith, 11 year-old son of John & Allison Smith, was selected Youth of the Month for August 2016. He is a sixth grader at Conehatta Elementary School & a Beta member. Braylon is also a member of the TORCH club & volunteers at the club. We appreciate the help he provides to the staff & members of the club.

Sean Wallace, 11 year-old son of Craig & Mindy Bell of the Conehatta Community, was selected Youth of the Month for September 2016. He is a sixth grader at Conehatta Elementary School & is always eager to help serve snacks to the members. Sean is very appreciated for his efforts to volunteer & assist. Thanks a lot, Sean! Braylon McMillan, see CLUB NEWS, pg. 12

CCHS FFA Chapter Officially Chartered
A chapter of the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Organization & Mississippi FFA Association was officially chartered at Choctaw Central High School on Friday, Oct. 28. The chapter (MS0337) may operate within the rights & privileges as an official entity of the National FFA Organization. Members of this chapter are official active members of both the Mississippi FFA Association & the National FFA Organization. The FFA strives to make a positive impact on the lives of students through premier leadership, personal growth & career success through agricultural education. Pictured above, seated from left, are chapter secretary Xena Willis, FFA state secretary Kayla Mercer, state president Brice Fortinberry, chapter president Madison Dixon; standing, member Allen Sockey, CCHS Principal Fred Hickmon, reporter Merrick Hickman, vice president Cy McMillan, member Josh Hickman, student advisor Talia Guyette, member Dregen Joe, member Kevin Taylor, OTC Principal Liddia Hughes, member Terrance Thomas, & advisor Anna Morrow. Not pictured are treasurer Deeshaya Jefferson, members Anfernee Willis & Terrell Bell.

Boys & Girls Clubs Of Mississippi Band Of Choctaw Indians
Tribal student athletes were instrumental in bringing home state championships to their respective high schools in the 2016 MHSAA C Spire Slow-Pitch Softball Championships on Saturday, Oct. 22 at Freedom Ridge Park in Ridgeland.

Choctaw Central claimed the Class 3A title as they swept Moorville, Newton County won the Class 4A title over West Lauderdale and Neshoba Central won the Class 5A/6A title as they swept George County.

The Choctaw Central Lady Warriors (25-5) won their second state title since 2013 as they defeated the Mooreville Lady Troopers 6-5 and 13-2.

“It feels good right now to be Choctaw! For us to come play and win, we are just so happy,” said first-year Lady Warriors head coach Crystal Roach.

“We encouraged the players to be there for each other and it showed. We believed in each other and told them to just play their best and that’s what they did. It was great!”

In the first game, the Lady Warriors took a 1-0 lead at the bottom of the second inning.

Mooreville came back for a two-run lead in the top of the third, but Choctaw Central tied the contest 2-2 to end the third inning.

After a bases loaded sacrifice fly, the Lady Warriors regained the lead 3-2 at the end of the fourth.

In the fifth, Mooreville tied the game 3-3. At the bottom of the inning, Choctaw Central added three more runs for a 6-3 lead.

Mooreville scored a run in the sixth inning to trail 6-4 heading into the final inning.

The Lady Troopers inched closer with a run in the top of the seventh. With bases loaded and one out, the Lady Warriors forced the final two outs to secure a 6-5 win. In the second game, the Lady Warriors opened with a 3-0 lead in the first inning. After three scoreless innings, the Choctaw Central bats came alive with four runs in the fifth and three runs at the top of the sixth for a 10-0 lead.

Mooreville avoided a shutout with two runs at the bottom of the sixth for a 10-2 deficit. Choctaw Central added three more runs in the final inning 13-2 to secure their second state slow-pitch championship.

“We knew we could play. In our first game, we felt nervous,” said Roach. “We encouraged them and calmed them down. We knew what our strengths were and we went out and played.”

The Newton County Lady Cougars (29-6) won their seventh consecutive title and 11th overall by defeating the West Lauderdale Lady Knights in the best-of-three series. West Lauderdale won the first game 3-1 but Newton County came back with 16-13 and 8-3 victories.

West Lauderdale took a 1-0 lead in the second inning until the Lady Cougars tied the game...continued next page
with a run in the top of the sixth inning. West Lauderdale came back with two more runs to close out the inning and hold on for the win.

In the second contest, West Lauderdale continued the offensive momentum as they scored six runs in the top of the first inning. Newton County came back with five runs to trail 6-5 at the end of first.

After scoring a run each in the second, Newton County added seven runs in the bottom of the third for a 13-7 lead.

West Lauderdale had two more runs in the fourth but Newton County added three more runs for a 16-9 lead.

West Lauderdale had four more runs but came up short 16-13.

In the deciding game, after trading leads early in the contest, Newton County came back with four runs in the fifth inning enroute to a 8-3 win.

The Neshoba Central Lady Rockets (28-7) won their fifth consecutive state championship as they defeated George County Lady Rebels 12-1 and 18-17.

George County took a 1-0 lead in the first inning, but the Lady Rockets tacked on four runs in the third, five runs in the fourth and three runs in the fifth inning before the game was called due to mercy rule.

The second game was much closer as George County took a 1-0 lead at the top of the first. Neshoba came back with three runs in the bottom of the inning to lead 3-1. George County knocked in five more runs in the second before Neshoba came back with two runs to trail 6-5.

The game was tied 9-9 in the fifth inning as George County added three runs and Neshoba four.

Neshoba had six runs in the bottom of the sixth to regain the lead 15-9.

George County scored eight runs to reclaim the lead 17-15 at the top of the seventh. Neshoba was yet to be done as they put two in scoring position and Kaylee Routh hit a three-run home run to secure a 18-17 final.

Congratulations To Our Chalita Champions!

CLASS 3A SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS 2016
CHOCTAW CENTRAL

CLASS 4A SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS 2016
NEWTON COUNTY

CLASS 6A/5A SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS 2016
NESHOBA CENTRAL
Club members participate in “Park After Dark” at the Mississippi Children’s Museum on Oct. 28.

DoECE Hosts Green Corn Festival

The 25th Annual Green Corn Festival, sponsored by the Department of Early Childhood Education, was held on Friday, Oct. 14, at the Pearl River Ampitheater in Choctaw.

The event was established so Choctaw customs would continue to survive and bring about the appreciation of the culture through dance and feasting for the young children and their families.

Flags were presented by the Choctaw Color Guard as all Early Childhood Education children made a grand entrance onto the amphitheater grounds, followed by an invocation by Stanley Bell.

Drummers for the entrance included Terrance Kinsolving, Elijah Ben, Elter Wilson, Craig Anderson, & Stanley Bell.

Pearl River Day Care Center Director Jessica Henry welcomed those in attendance and said it is important to keep traditions alive and to encourage all children to continue dancing.

Guest speaker Pearl River Tribal Council representative Stella Willis said she was happy to see the revival of cultural knowledge beginning at an early age for these children.

“What we teach these children today in the first five years of their lives is the formative years. We are thankful that while parents work, our children are taken care of and taught the values of our tribe. Let us join together and make sure we keep our traditions alive.”

A total of nine Head Start classes performed several traditional social dances. Serving as chanters were Curtis “Buck” Willis, Jr. & Darien Tubby. Afterwards, the Elderly Program social dancers performed the House Dance.

Pearl River Head Start student Sadie Farve offered the benediction as a traditional meal was served in the Pearl River Community Center.
Halloween
Fun Events
Halloween was a fun time for children and elders in Choctaw as several activities were held for their enjoyment.
Several hundred children and their families participated in Trunk or Treat events on Oct. 28. The Choctaw Tribal Council hosted their event in the parking lot of their offices and the Department of Public Safety hosted their event in the parking lot of the Smith John Justice Complex.
Tribal elders held their own activities at the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center as they held contests for cake decorating, pumpkin carving, dance, and costume.

Healthy Family Fall Festival
Children from the Division of Early Childhood Education’s Head Start programs participated in the 6th Annual Healthy Family Fall Festival in the Pearl River Community Center in Choctaw on Friday, October 21. The event, sponsored by the Family Violence & Victim’s Services, was held in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Various programs and staff members provided fun-filled activities and information for all the children & their parents & guardians. Participants concluded the event with a domestic violence awareness march to the nearby Pearl River Recreation Field for a balloon release.

Employee, Employer of the Year Honored
The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians’ Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program observed Disability Awareness Week Sept. 26-30 to raise awareness of disability issues & celebrate various contributions of workers with disabilities. On Tuesday, Sept. 27, the program honored an Employee & Employer of the Year 2016 at The Occupational Training Center Cafe in Choctaw. Nicola Lewis was recognized as Employee of the Year & Pearl River Resort’s Food & Beverage Department was named Employer of the Year. ABOVE, Sheila Martin, Executive Director of Resort Operations (center), accepts the Employer of the Year Award on behalf of the Pearl River Resort. Also pictured is Christopher Mesteth, Job Placement Counselor (left), & Mary Lundy Meruvia, Program Director. Not pictured is Employee of the Year recipient Nicola Lewis. Disability Awareness Week activities is made possible by a grant from the Choctaw Community Fund.
The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians’ Family Violence & Victim’s Services (FVVS) hosted an event to honor the memories of homicide victims & recognize the impact homicide has on surviving family members and loved ones.

On Thursday, Sept. 29, families of homicide victims gathered at the Pearl River Community Baptist Church in Choctaw to observe the National Day of Remembrance for Homicide Victims.

FVVS therapist Kim Neal welcomed families and offered the opening prayer.

A proclamation was read stating FVVS is collaborating with officials to remember the tragedy of homicide, honor the courage of survivors and vow to help survivors rebuild...continued next page

Pictured from left are Kim Neal of FVVS & Beth Henry of Nittak Himmona Domestic Violence Shelter.

Prevent Elder Abuse

Identify It! Report It! Stop It!

Warning Signs

- Fear, withdrawal, depression
- Shame, anxiety, embarrassment
- Unexplained bruises or injuries
- Hesitation to talk openly
- Isolation by caregiver
- Unkept appearance
- Loss of self-esteem
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions

Recognizing the warning signs is the key to identifying and stopping an occurrence of elder abuse.

For more information on elder abuse, contact Family Violence and Victim’s Services at 601-650-1774.

REPORT CRIMES ANONYMously

WeTip

Call 1-855-4-THE REZ (1-855-484-3739) or visit www.wetip.com

CALL IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT:

- Theft
- Child Abuse
- Vandalism
- Illegal Drugs
- Bullying
- Assault
- Or any other illegal activity

You can call 24 hours a day & report your concern to us. No one will ask your name; you will remain anonymous. Your tip may lead to a REWARD, up to $1,000!

Community Law Day held Oct. 27

The Mississippi Center for Legal Services Corporation and Choctaw Legal Defense presented Choctaw Community Law Day, “Breaking Barriers & Building Bridges Through Legal Education” on Oct. 27 at the Golden Moon VIP Room in Choctaw. Dozens of participants received valuable legal information in several sessions pertaining to children & family services, consumer protection, power of attorney/conservatorship, adoption changes, probate/administration of estate (will), bankruptcy, & blood quantum/enrollment issues.

Pow Wow/Vigil Held For Domestic Violence Awareness

The Family Violence & Victim’s Services (FVVS), in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety, hosted a pow wow & candlelight vigil on Saturday, Oct. 15 at the Pearl River Recreational Field in Choctaw. The event, Break The Silence (Nokchito Ya Loshohlih), was held in observance of October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month. At the conclusion of the pow wow, FVVS staff members led a candlelight vigil as dancers, drummers & the audience stood together to end all forms of domestic violence & heal as a sacred community. FVVS serves as a hub for all domestic violence & sexual assault issues on the Choctaw Reservation & provides & coordinates services that promote safety, health & anonymity of domestic violence & sexual assault victims & their dependents. The mission of FVVS is to develop a zero-tolerance attitude among Choctaw people for domestic violence crimes & promote a significant decline in domestic violence & sexual assault crime on the Choctaw Reservation. For more information, contact FVVS at 601-650-1774.
Psalms Trio provided special music for the event.

Family members remember their loved ones as candles were lit in their honor & memory.

DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI NEWS

DCI partakes in Film Production

The Department of Chahta Immi (DCI), along with officials from the MBCI Office of Public Information, Choctaw Video Productions, & Choctaw Wildlife & Parks, collaborated with Providence Pictures to record a PBS documentary called “Rediscovering America” during the last week of September.

The documentary will showcase the ancient mound building societies of the Americas as the Nanih Waiya cave & mounds are to be highlighted in this special feature.

Several Tribal members were interviewed about the history & cultural significance of the mounds. Choctaw social dances were also recorded at the mound to showcase Choctaw heritage.

The following is a tentative cultural workshop schedule in the following communities for the remainder of fiscal year 2016-2017.

Bogue Homa
Dec. 9, Sash & Medallion Making, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Dec. 14 & 21, Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Dec. 28, Bugle & Seed Bead Collar Necklace, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Pearl River
Jan. 4, Bugle & Seed Bead Collar Necklace, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Jan. 10, Headband & Stickball Apron, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Jan. 17, Sash & Medallion Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Jan. 21, Hog Killing, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Jan. 24 & 31, Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making, see DCI NEWS, pg. 16

What is Domestic Violence?
Domestic Violence (DV) is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person.

DID YOU KNOW?
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner.
- On a typical day, domestic violence hotlines receive approximately 20,000 calls, approximately 15 calls every minute.
- Intimate partner violence accounts for 50% of all violent crime.
- 72% of all murder-suicides involve an intimate partner; 54% of the victims of these crimes are female.

END THE CYCLE!
If you are experiencing domestic violence you are NOT alone.
Please call us - We Can Help!
(601) 663-7851
24 Hour Crisis Line or
(601) 650-1774
Family Violence & Victims Services Program

The Nanih Waiya Mound will be featured in a PBS documentary, “Rediscovering America.”

Jane Tubby, Betty Tubby & Keri Tubby prepare a meal for the production crew & cast.
Participants thin out the shell for their drums.

May 24 & 30, Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Sept. 12 & 19, Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Sept. 26, Headband & Stickball Apron, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Bogue Chitto
Aug. 1 & 8, Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Sept. 28, Bugle & Seed Bead Collar Necklace, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Anita Winstead will be present at particular classes for those who may need to purchase beads or fabrics.

All interested parties are invited to the workshops to learn, share

...continued next page
Protect Yourself from Medical Identity Theft

Submitted by
Susan Cosgrove, Area Extension Agent, Family Resource Management

Medical identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information (name, Social Security number, health insurance or Medicare number) to obtain medical care.

Exactly what the thief gets with your information may range from fake billing claims, drugs, to expensive equipment.

Medical identity theft is a serious concern for patients, health care providers & health plans. Health care providers & insurers are asking how they can minimize the risk & help their patients if they are victimized.

What if an identity thief tampered with your chart, & now it has the wrong allergen or blood type listed? This can be a matter of life or death.

Today, more of our medical information is digitized by health care providers. So this is now the target of computer & network hackers that break into these electronic records & steal this valuable data.

Everything a thief needs is in our medical records — our Social Security number, health insurance numbers, address, phone number & our name. All of this information can be used to order goods & services (that are NEVER delivered) & bill them to Medicare & Medicaid.

These thieves can also corrupt medical records with erroneous information that can lead them to incorrect diagnosis & treatments which impacts the entire health care system. Medical identity theft is now the fastest growing crime in our country.

Recent estimated of annual medical fraud in the U.S. range from $80 billion to $230 billion. Twenty-nine percent of victims do not find out about the identity theft until a year or later with 75% of victims finding it difficult to resolve these issues.

Sixty-five percent of victims paid an average of $13,500 to resolve the crime. Victims spend an average of 200 hours correcting their compromised data.

How would you know if you are a victim? Victims may:

- Find erroneous listings of office visits or treatments on their medical records.
- Be told by their health plan that they have reached their limit on benefits, but they...

Drum Workshop

The Alhipa Chitto (Drum) Ikbi workshop, under the guidance of CAP’s Cultural Revitalization Specialist Casey Bigpond, was held at the Pearl River Community Dance Ground on Oct. 13. The cultural activity was hands-on-training sponsored by the CAP & funded by the MBCI Tribal Administration.

Presentation At Ole Miss

Casey Bigpond, Garrison Joe, Dustin Isaac, & Rosemary John traveled to the University of Mississippi in Oxford for a Choctaw Culture Review & Choctaw Stickball Presentation. Members of Choctaw Central High School’s dance group, coordinated by Elter Wilson, performed an exhibition of Choctaw dances for the audience.

Choctaw Expressions At Mississippi Children’s Museum

The Department of Chahta Immi (DCI) set up cultural exhibits in the interior halls of the Mississippi Children’s Museum in Jackson in observance of Native American Heritage Month. Choctaw Expressions, coordinated by DCI Director Jay Wesley, was held at the museum from Nov. 1-5. The CAP gave presentations on stickball as they displayed stickball items, handed out information & showed stickball videos to the public.

Dance groups from the Choctaw Tribal Schools (Tucker, Standing Pine, Bogue Chitto, Conchatta, & Red Water Elementary Schools) also performed Choctaw dances for those in attendance.

Standing Pine Elementary School dancers enjoy a video of a stickball game prior to their performance at the Mississippi Children’s Museum.


**BOBBY L. DAVIS**

Funeral service for Bobby L. Davis, 61, was held on Friday, September 30, 2016, from the St. Theresa Catholic Church in Choctaw. Father Bob Goodyear officiated.

Burial was in the Pearl River Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Davis passed away on Sept. 26 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He enjoyed being with family & friends, gardening, watching TV, & caring for animals.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Hayward Davis.

Survivors include his mother, Belfree Willis; father, Francis Davis; sisters, Betty Wilson, Shannon Thompson, Kathy Clemons, & Joyce Cauthen; brothers, Johnny Davis & Jerithan Willis; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**BRADEN SAM**

Funeral service for Braden Sam, 31, was held on Thursday, October 6, 2016, from Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated.

Burial was in the Standing Pine Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Sam passed away on October 2 in Leake County.

He enjoyed spending time with family & friends & playing basketball & football.

He was preceded in death by infant sons, Daylon Grant Sam & Tyler Brae-Dean Sam; & grandparents, R.B. Sam, Easlin Denson & Lucille Lewis Chickaway.

Survivors include his parents, Bobby Dean Sam & Charlene Denise Sam; sons, Tyrus Sam, Braeson Sam, Zaymien Sam, Braden Sam, Jr., Hunter Sam, & Draeden Sam; a sister, Ariel Sam; a brother, Corey Sam; a companion, Deyonkia Willis; three aunts; four uncles; a niece, & a host of relatives & friends.

**GLADYS WILLIS**

Funeral service for Gladys Willis, 73, was held on Thursday, October 13, 2016, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Choctaw. Rev. George Dixon & Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the Pine Bluff Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Willis passed away on Oct. 8 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She enjoyed being with family, singing hymns, watching game shows, playing bingo, fishing, & traveling.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Tom & Sally Davis Thomas Briscoe; sisters, Mollie Anderson, Mary Ben & Vera B. Willis Isaac; brothers, Dewey Thomas, Golden Thomas, Singleton Thomas, Amos Thomas, & Woodrow Thomas; & three grandchildren.

Survivors include her daughters, Rachel Willis, Amanda Jefferson & Melanie Willis; sons, Eric Willis & Christopher Willis; a sister, Dora Nickly; 17 grandchildren; four foster children; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

**MERDIS DENSON**

Funeral service for Merdis Denson, 77, was held on Friday, October 14, 2016, from the Choctaw Missionary Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Shelly Peoples & Bro. Raymond Johnson, Jr., officiated.

**THEFT.............................................. continued from page seventeen**

know this cannot be true.

• Be denied insurance because their medical records show a condition they don’t have.

Medical identity theft prevention tips:

• Read the Explanation of Benefits (EOB) statement. This may be lengthy & seem complex, but this is very important.

• Confirm what is in the EOB is correct & that it was YOU.

• Request a complete list of payments from your health insurance company annually.

• Keep a small calendar, documenting each date when you are at a doctor’s office, lab, hospital, or pharmacy. Document each location/date of health care.

• Be stingy with your information.

• Learn to spot phishing emails.

• Store your information carefully.

• Never use public Wi-Fi to compromise your personal information.

• Review your medical records for accuracy. Under federal law, you have a right to know what is in your medical files. You may have to pay a fee to get some of your records.

• Shred documents associated with your health insurance you no longer need.

• Get a free copy of your credit report from annualcreditreport.com. If you are a victim of medical identity theft, take these steps:

  • Call the authorities & file a police report.

  • Send a copy of police report to your insurer, medical providers & all three credit bureaus.

  • Call your insurance company & report it.

  • Request access to your medical records (doctor, hospital, pharmacy, & lab). Correct errors immediately.

  • File a medical identity theft complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) or call the FTC Hotline (877) IDTHEFT.

  • Work with your insurance company & medical providers to clear your name of the charges.

  For more details, contact Susan Cosgrove, Area Extension Agent, at 601-635-7011 or email s.cosgrove@msstate.edu. Or contact your county office of Mississippi State University Extension.

...continued next page
Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Denson passed away on Oct. 11 at her residence.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Valeria Sockey; & sisters, Jeanette Willis & De-lores C. Sockey.

Survivors include her daughters, Sindy Ann Lewis & Sanpella Jefferson; a son, Dudley Denson, Sr.; sisters, Adeline J. Will & Sadie R. Wilson; brothers, Elvin J. Sockey & Clyde A. Sockey; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two aunts; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

CECIL DIXON

Funeral service for Cecil Dixon, 71, was held on Friday, October 14, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Randall Joe & Rev. John Frazier officiated.

Burial was in the Nanih Waiya Mennonite Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Dixon passed away on Oct. 12 at his residence.

He enjoyed gardening, fishing, hunting, making stickball sticks, & playing the guitar. He was a four-time stickball MVP.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jim & Bessie Frazier Dixon; wife, Alline Willis; daughter, Stacy Dixon; sisters, Patsy Robinson & Rosie Hickman; brother, Lewisman Dixon; & a great-grandchild.

Survivors include his daughters, Rosie Dixon, Ashley Stephens, Karen Smith, & Lavina Vaughn; sons, Cecil Ray Dixon, Richard Dixon, Mario Stephens, & Donald Bell; sisters, Winnie Isaac & Louisa Bell; 25 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, relatives & friends.

WILLIAM HICKMAN, SR.

Funeral service for William Hickman, Sr., 61, was held on Wednesday, October 26, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Hickman passed away on Oct. 23 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a U.S. Army & National Guard veteran. He enjoyed being with family & playing stickball.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John Mullet Hickman & Christine Frazier Hickman; daughter, Chrystal Bell; sister, Lauren Denson; brothers, Dale Hickman & Terry Lee Hickman; & two great-granddaughters. Survivors include his companion, Louisa Mingo; daughters, Dee De Beckwith & Elizabeth Mingo; sons, William Hickman, Jr., Eric Mingo, Jeremiah Mingo, Jason Mingo, & Ricardo Wilson; sisters, Fannie Jones & Annie Hickman; brothers, Wil- lied J. Hickman & Randy Hickman; adopted siblings, Johnathan Hickman & Jessica Hickman; an aunt; uncle; 26 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

ARMAN DURAN JEFFERSON

Funeral service for Arman Duran Jefferson, 31, was held on Friday, October 28, 2016, from the St. Catherine Catholic Church in Conehatta. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the Conehatta Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Jefferson passed away on Oct. 25 in Philadelphia. He enjoyed spending time with family, fishing, playing washers, basketball, volleyball, stickball, listening to music, & drawing.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Edmond & Berdie Shoemaker, Goldman & Millie Jefferson; a broth- er, Marcus Jefferson; an aunt & four uncles. Survivors include his wife, Lisa Jefferson; daughter, Melody Jeffer- son; sons, Antone Jef- ferson, Arman Jefferson, Jr., Carmen Jefferson, & Keaton Jefferson; sister, Tabatha Thomas; broth- ers, Javeon Jefferson, Len Jafferson, Jr., Dal- las Shoemaker, & Jobie Charlie; five aunts; two uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

Club Celebrates Heritage Month
Members of East Central Community College’s Native American Club celebrated Native American Heritage Month on Sept. 22 on the college’s Decatur campus. Club members played traditional music for spectators. The group also sold hominy, frybread & Indian tacos as a fundraiser for their club. ECCC librarians Leslie Hughes & Elizabeth Minter serve as club sponsors. (EC Photo)

Participants Have Fun At Choctaw Challenge
Dozens of area athletes participated in the 2016 Choctaw Challenge, a 5k mud run at Lake Pushmataha in Choctaw on Saturday, Oct. 29. The 3.1 mile rough terrain mud obstacle course was sponsored by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and Mississippi State University Extension Service. Participants ran across the lake levee before heading into the wooded trail for a series of obstacles before coming back out and racing towards the finish line. Participants who pre-registered received an official T-shirt along with an information packet.

ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS
The CHOCTAW TRIBAL ELDERS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT Needs Your Help!
We are seeking old photos, newspaper clippings, cultural artifacts, & memorabilia. These items will be used in unison with video interviews with Tribal elders who tell their life experiences through a cultural & traditional perspective. This project will cover a number of topics, & if you have any items pertinent to the project & would like to share, bring all items to the Department of Choctah Imni Special Projects’ Media Program. All items will be copied & returned promptly back to you.

Topics for the CTEOH Project include:
Religion & Spirituality • Tribal Government Historical Events • Song & Dance Education • Food Ways • Social Life Clothing • Work
Our Elders are our bridge to the past. Their words will make alive a way of life that our youth can learn about and preserve.

For more information, please contact:
Special Projects/Media Program
601-663-7735

Participants Have Fun At Choctaw Challenge
Dozens of area athletes participated in the 2016 Choctaw Challenge, a 5k mud run at Lake Pushmataha in Choctaw on Saturday, Oct. 29. The 3.1 mile rough terrain mud obstacle course was sponsored by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and Mississippi State University Extension Service. Participants ran across the lake levee before heading into the wooded trail for a series of obstacles before coming back out and racing towards the finish line. Participants who pre-registered received an official T-shirt along with an information packet.